

## Message Text

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16

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 W

----- 052769

R 161715Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

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O 1162:N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IV

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT-PICKANDS MATHER IRON ORE PROJECT

1. R.A. DAVIA, GENERAL MANAGER OF ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION-PICKANDS MATHER, CALLED ON EMBASSY TO ADVISE OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ON SUBJECT PROJECT. TWO MAJOR PROBLEMS AREAS ARE POWER AND TRANSPORTATION.

2. IN ORDER FOR THE PROJECT TO BE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, ELECTRICITY CANNOT COST MORE THAN 1 1/2 CENTS PER KILO-WATT HOUR. THE IVORIAN POWER AUTHORITY MAINTAINS THAT POWER CANNOT BE SUPPLIED AT THAT COST. DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE.

3. PM IS NOT PLEASED WITH THE FIVE CONSORTIA PRE-SELECTED TO BID ON THE ESTIMATED 5 MILLION RAILROAD ENGINEERING CONTRACT. PM SUSPECTS, AS DOES THE EMBASSY, THAT THE CARDS HAVE BEEN STACKED IN FAVOR OF SOFRERAIL/BECEOM THE FRENCH GROUP AND PM IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH BCEOM'S WORK. FYI. BCEOM IS KNOWN TO HIRE ENGINEERS FROM FRENCH SUPPLIERS AT ATTRACTIVE RATES AND OBVIOUS RESULTS IN THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR EQUIPMENT. END FYI. BECAUSE OF PM'S LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN SOFRERAIL/BCEOM, THEY ARE CONTINUING THEIR STUDY OF THE SLURRY PIPELINE IN ANTICIPATION OF A BREAKDOWN IN PLANS FOR A RAILROAD.

4. THE DEFINITIVE PM PROJECT DESCRIPTION MUST BE COMPLETE FOR MARCH 31 IN ORDER TO MEET THE JAN 1, 1980

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TARGET FOR FIRST SHIPMENTS. MANY PROBLEMS REMAIN

TO BE SOLVED INCLUDING THE CHOICE OF A LOCATION FOR A  
25 METER DEPTH MINERAL PORT WITH ROOM FOR 250,000  
TON CARRIERS TO MANEUVER.

5. PM HAS BASED A REPRESENTATIVE IN ABIDJAN AND  
FURTHER DRILLING TEAMS ARE DUE AT MT KLAHOYO TO "FINE  
TUNE" PM'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORE BODY.  
SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 16 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAJOR PROJECT-PICKANDS MATHER IRON ORE PROJECT  
**TAGS:** BEXP, IV  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006